

## MAYOR'S PLAIN CHARTER TALK.

Says It Suits Him Except in Points He Has Already Told About.

IS EXPECTED TO SIGN IT. After Hearings on Supplemental Bills To-day It Will Be Sent to Albany.

HEARINGS BROUGHT TO AN END.

A. B. Hepburn's Argument Against the Instrument Controverted Strongly by Mayor Strong Himself.

Mayor Strong finished the hearing on the new charter yesterday afternoon. He will give a hearing this afternoon on the supplemental bills.

spoke in favor of the charter, and declared that the men who were fighting it were big land owners, and were opposed to equal taxation, which the speaker considered fair to all concerned.

Letters and telegrams were read from James C. Carter, William B. Hornblower, Samuel D. Babcock and others, opposing the charter. Gerard Barbert, of Long Island City, urged the Mayor to sign the instrument. R. W. Gibson and Charles Stewart Smith also spoke against it.

Mayor Strong declared that the remarks to the effect that the gentlemen who drafted the charter did not give the matter sufficient attention had no foundation in fact. The Committee on Draft, he said, devoted sixty-one days to the charter, and the full commission spent thirty-five days considering it. He declared that more time had been given to framing this charter than any similar document in the history of the United States. He favored the charter, he said, with the exception of three chapters for the reasons he had already stated.

This declaration was received with silence, the opponents of the charter being greatly surprised.

Dorman B. Eaton made a long speech of opposition, and said the matter had been rushed through by the Republican party in the hope of capturing the Greater New York and maintaining its supremacy in the State.

"I believe if this election should take place now it would be carried by Tammany Hall. The Republican party would be defeated by the very means it took to devise the scheme," he said.

## BROWNE ASSAILS THE CHARTER.

Tammany Judge and Law Committeeman Says: "The Democracy Will Have Onerous Work Administering the Laws."



I will take second place to no man in Metropolitan pride. I want to see the city beautified, enlarged, improved and its commercial supremacy established. I appreciate fully all the sentimental as well as practical reasons for the formation of the Greater New York.

From the charter proposed by the Commission, however, as it appears to me from the examination I have made, I judge that many years must pass before the system it provides is fully constructed. In the meantime the advantages to be gained by this piece of hasty legislation, so important to the future welfare of the community, is not commensurate with the added burdens which it imposes on the present city. There is no pressing necessity for the charter, and the commission should have been allowed ample time for the discussion of its provisions. The people who are to be affected by its operation should have been given the opportunity not only to express themselves before the Commission, but before the law-making body of the State. Their representatives in the Legislature were without the means of proper consideration of the charter, and have no chance to hear their constituency.

The remedy, in my opinion, will be to defer the adoption of the charter at least another year, and in the meantime have its various provisions thoroughly analyzed by gentlemen equally as competent as the framers of the charter. Then it should be resubmitted to the people for adoption.

I believe in consolidation, if it can be effected on a proper basis as respects the equalization of assessments in the several districts for purposes of taxation. The charter proposes that we shall pay the greater part of the expense to be incurred for improving the outlying districts, in addition to the cost of our own improvements. As an abstract question it would appear to me that we would lose, under this charter, much in future public improvements. The rate of taxation in the outlying districts is almost to the highest limit the people can bear, and any public improvements which would put a large addition of tribute on the city of New York would naturally be deferred by the first administration for the purpose of avoiding as much as possible any increase in the present burdensome rate of taxation, and the increase of valuations on property, which are now almost abnormal.

The remarks of former Mayor Hewitt before the Mayor on the subject of "jamming" the charter through were well suited to the case. If the Republican party carries out its intention to enact this ill-considered measure and force it upon the people, the duty of the Democratic party in bringing about, under its provisions, an assimilation of interests in the Greater New York, will be a very onerous one. Yet I feel an abiding confidence in the ability of the Democrats of the city to elect men to office who will apply the law and assimilate interests with as little injury to locality as possible. I also feel assured that the responsibility of administration which the people will undoubtedly give them next fall will be discharged faithfully, honestly and economically. No matter what the burdens cast upon them by the Republican party may be, the Democrats will live up to the old principle that life is worth living, and New York is the best city in the world in which to live.

A great many important legal and some constitutional questions will arise which will require a long time for the courts to reconcile. We now have five county administrations within the district outlined for the Greater New York. If we are to have one great metropolitan district in a true sense, in which we shall have the right to govern ourselves, this condition should be changed. If the interests of the people are to be thoroughly conserved, the first problem will be to remove these conflicting county administrations, with their separate sets of officers, out of the limits of the Greater New York, and have but a single form of local government. The duties to the State could be discharged by one set of officers as well as by five.

Many defects and omissions of the charter could have been avoided if the people of the greater city had been given fair play and the opportunity to understand the results of consolidation under this unwise measure. I believe it would be overwhelmingly defeated if it were submitted to the vote of the people for adoption. I do not believe the people want bipartisan departments. The power and duties of the departments should be plainly defined and the responsibility for the administration placed upon one responsible head. I believe that the Corporation Counsel and the head of the tax department should be elected. They are constituent parts of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and their appointment by the Mayor gives that official too much power in the formation of the most important Board under the charter.

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17 CENTS Everywhere sold at 20 cents

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French Batistes—finest—worth 19.... 10 1/2

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